

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USNATO 03705 01 OF 02 121026Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 03705

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, US
SUBJECT: NATO FORCE GOALS FOR THE U.S.

REF: USNATO 3449 (DTG 051130Z APR 78)

1. THERE FOLLOWS IN PARA 2 THE U.S. REP'S (BADER) PREPARED STATEMENT, OUTLINING MAJOR NATO-RELATED INITIATIVES IN THE FY1979 DEFENSE BUDGET, THAT WE CIRCULATED AT THE APRIL 11 DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING ON DRAFT FORCE GOALS (1979-1984) FOR THE U.S. WE WILL REPORT COMMITTEE DISCUSSION SEPTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

THE 1979 DEFENSE BUDGET AND FORWARD PLANS REPRESENT A MAJOR REALIGNMENT OF US PROGRAMS TO MEET HIGH PRIORITY ALLIANCE DEFENSE NEEDS. THESE PLANS REFLECT OUR CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF WARSAW PACT MILITARY CAPABILITIES AND OUR DETERMINATION TO DO OUR PART TO
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PAGE 02 USNATO 03705 01 OF 02 121026Z

MAINTAIN ALLIANCE NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL FORCES NECESSARY TO DETER, OR IF NECESSARY DEFEND AGAINST WARSAW PACT MILITARY ACTION.

DEMONSTRATING THE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION PLACES ON IMPROVING THE US CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATO AND STRENGTHENING THE COLLECTIVE DEFENSE OF WESTERN

EUROPE, THE FY-1979 BUDGET ALLOCATES SUBSTANTIAL NEW RESOURCES FOR MODERNIZING AND IMPROVING OUR CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR FORCES. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON INCREASING THE READINESS OF OUR FORWARD-DEPLOYED FORCES AND ON ENHANCING OUR RAPID REINFORCEMENT CAPABILITY. DEFENSE EXPENDITURES

CONSONANT WITH 1977 MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, THE FY-1979 DEFENSE BUDGET PROJECTS ANNUAL REAL INCREASES IN US DEFENSE SPENDING (OUTLAYS) OF ABOUT 3 PERCENT OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (FY 1979-83). IN CONSTANT 1979 PRICES, THIS WOULD EQUATE TO A TOTAL EXPENDITURE, OVER THIS FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, OF NEARLY \$630 BILLION. OF KEY SIGNIFICANCE, PLANNED EXPENDITURES IN FY-1979 FOR "GENERAL PURPOSE FORCES" - PRIMARILY FOR NATO - WILL INCREASE BY ABOUT 4 PERCENT IN REAL TERMS.

WE WOULD REMIND THAT THESE BUDGETARY PROJECTIONS ARE PROVISIONAL, REPRESENTING THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST TO THE CONGRESS FOR FY-1979 AND TENTATIVE PROJECTIONS FOR THE SUCCEEDING FOUR YEARS, AND NOT AN APPROVED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL PLAN. THESE BUDGET REQUESTS ARE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW, REVISION, AND APPROVAL. THIS EXTENDED AND DETAILED REVIEW PROCESS RESULTS INEVITABLY IN NUMEROUS, AND SOMETIMES EXTENSIVE, MODIFICATIONS TO THE CURRENT BUDGET AND FORWARD PLANS PROPOSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USNATO 03705 01 OF 02 121026Z

TRATION.

NATO INITIATIVES

AS REFLECTED IN THE FY-1979 BUDGET AND FYDP, OUR PRIMARY NEAR-TERM EMPHASIS IS ON IMPROVING OUR FORWARD DEFENSE AND FIREPOWER CAPABILITIES TO COUNTER THE CONTINGENCY OF AN ATTACK LAUNCHED WITH LITTLE WARNING. AT THE SAME TIME, THE US IS UNDERTAKING OR PROPOSES TO TAKE STEPS TO ENHANCE OUR SUSTAINING CAPABILITY, TO ENSURE THAT NATO CAN RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO THREATS ON THE FLANKS AND TO PROTECT THE SEA LINES OF COMMUNICATION FROM THE US TO WESTERN EUROPE. SPECIFIC NATO-RELATED INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

. - READINESS.

-- AS ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT CARTER, THE US IS INCREASING ITS GROUND FORCES IN EUROPE BY 8,000 SOLDIERS, TO INCLUDE THE ADDITION OF THREE ARTILLERY BATTALION EQUIVALENTS AND RAISING THE AUTHORIZED MANNING LEVELS FOR SELECTED UNITS.

. -- THE US PLANS TO INCREASE MUNITION STOCKS, CONSTRUCT ADDITIONAL FORWARD STORAGE SITES AND UPLOAD AMMUNITION ON SELECTED COMBAT VEHICLES.

. -- TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN INCREASED TACTICAL AIR OPERATIONS, WE PLAN TO INCREASE PREPOSITIONED EQUIPMENT, TO PROCURE AND DEPLOY SEVEN ADDITIONAL RAPID RUNWAY REPAIR KITS AND TO CONSTRUCT ALTERNATIVE RUNWAYS AT A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN AIRBASES.

. - REINFORCEMENT

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PAGE 01 USNATO 03705 02 OF 02 121031Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 03705

. -- THROUGH IMPROVED AIRLIFT AND PREPOSITIONING OF ADDITIONAL SETS OF DIVISION EQUIPMENT (POMCUS) IN EUROPE, THE US PLANS BY 1983 TO BE ABLE TO AUGMENT IN-PLACE FORCES BY FIVE DIVISIONS AND 60 TACTICAL AIR SQUADRONS WITHIN 10 DAYS, COMPARED TO APPROXIMATELY ONE DIVISION AND 40 AIR SQUADRONS AT PRESENT.

. -- SPECIFICALLY, THE ARMY HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL POMCUS STOCKS THROUGH REALLOCATION OF EXISTING RESOURCES AND POSITION THIS EQUIPMENT IN EUROPE, AND IN THE FY-1979 BUDGET, \$84 MILLION IS PROGRAMMED FOR THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF POMCUS AND CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL POMCUS FACILITIES.

. -- WE PLAN TO MODIFY OUR EXISTING C-141 FLEET,

EXPANDING THE AIRCRAFT'S LOAD-CARRYING CAPACITY BY ABOUT 30 PERCENT AND ADDING AERIAL REFUELING EQUIPMENT THAT WILL INCREASE THE RANGE AND FLEXIBILITY OF THESE AIRCRAFT.

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PAGE 02 USNATO 03705 02 OF 02 121031Z

. - OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, THE US PLANS TO ACQUIRE ABOUT 5,000 TANKS (INCLUDING THE NEW XM-1, OF WHICH 110 ARE FUNDED IN FY-1979) AND 24,000 LONG AND MEDIUM-RANGE ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILES.

. - US PLANS CALL FOR LARGE-SCALE ATTACK HELICOPTER AND RELATED MISSILE PROCUREMENT, INCLUDING DEVELOPEMENT OF AN ADVANCED ATTACK HELICOPTER (WITH INITIAL PROCUREMENT OF 18 AIRCRAFT OF A PROPOSED PROGRAM OF 536 IN 1981), CONTINUED WORK ON THE LASER-GUIDED HELLFIRE ANTI-TANK MISSILES AND COMPLETION OF THE COBRA-TOW ACQUISITION IN FY-1980, PROVIDING A TOTAL OF NEARLY 1,000 COBRA ATTACK HELICOPTERS.

TACTICAL AIRCRAFT

- AIR FORCE FIREPOWER WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE. IN FY-1979, AN ADDITIONAL SQUADRON OF F-15'S AND THE FIRST WING OF A-10'S WILL BE DEPLOYED TO EUROPE. IN TOTAL OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, THE US WILL PROCURE ABOUT 2,000 NEW TACTICAL AIRCRAFT.

IN SHORT, THE FY-1979 DEFENSE BUDGET AND PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR DEFENSE PROGRAM REFLECTS A CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF MAJOR PROGRAMS FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF US NATO-ORIENTED FORCES AND A SIGNIFICANT REORDERING OF PRIORITIES WITHIN US DEFENSE PROGRAMS TO MEET COLLECTIVE DEFENSE NEEDS.

WE ARE PROVIDING COPIES OF SECRETARY BROWN'S ANNUAL REPORT, WHICH DESCRIBES US DEFENSE PROGRAMS IN DETAIL, TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE. END TEXT.
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PAGE 03 USNATO 03705 02 OF 02 121031Z

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